

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 00058 080935Z

16

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-01 COME-00 EB-07

FPC-01 INT-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 OES-03 STR-01 TRSE-00

FRB-01 FEA-01 AGR-05 IO-10 /102 W
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R 080832Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2063

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAID, ECON, CE

SUBJ: ARAB OIL PRODUCERS GRANT \$64 MILLION ADDITIONAL AID
TO SRI LANKA

REF: COLOMBO 3557, DECEMBER 27, 1974

1. BADI-UD-DIN MAHMUD, MINISTER OF EDUCATION,
RETURNED JANUARY 3, 1975, FROM VISIT TO SIX ARAB OIL
PRODUCING NATIONS AND REPORTED TO PRIME MINISTER SUCCESS IN
SOLICITING FIRM AID COMMITMENTS TOTALLING \$64 MILLION.
DONATION GIVEN WIDE PRESS COVERAGE AND INDEED MADE TO APPEAR
LARGER BY CONVERTING FIGURE AT FEED RATE TO READ RS 670
MILLION RATHER THAN OFFICIAL RATE (TO READ RS 420 MILLION).
ARAB GENEROSITY LINKED IN PRESS TO SWRD BANDARANAIKE'S DEFENSE OF
ARAB INTERESTS IN 1950S.

2. MINISTRY OF PLANNING OFFICIAL GAVE US FOLLOWING BREAK-
DOWN: \$12 MILLION FROM SAUDI ARABIA; \$15 MILLION FROM
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES; \$37 MILLION TOTAL FROM QATAR, BAHREIN
AND KUWAIT (NO DETAILS GIVEN). GSL WILL RECEIVE \$15 MILLION
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PAGE 02 COLOMB 00058 080935Z

FOR BUDGET ASSISTANCE ON SOFT TERMS (REPAYABLE IN 15 YEARS AT

2 PERCENT WITH 7-YEAR GRACE PERIOD) AND ANOTHER \$7 MILLION FOR 1975 DISBURSEMENT ON SPECIFIED PROJECTS. REMAINDER RELATED TO JOINT PROJECTS, BUT NO DETAILS AVAILABLE. SAUDI ARABIA'S CONTRIBUTION ALREADY DEPOSITED.

3. COMMENT: SIZE OF COMMITMENTS CAME AS HAPPY SURPRISE, ESPECIALLY UAE CONTRIBUTION. GSL WOULD HAVE PREFERRED MORE BUDGET ASSISTANCE; PLANNING MINISTRY OFFICIAL REPORTS MAH HARVEST MAXIMUM NOW DOWN TO 32 MILLION BUSHELS (SEE REFTEL). PRIME MINISTER HAS BEEN ADVISED PADDY MARKETING BOARD WILL SUPPLY MAXIMUM 100,000 TONS RICE IN 1975 AND SHE HAS AUTHORIZED PURCHASE OF 300,000 TONS ABOVE SEPTEMBER PROJECTIONS OF 300,000 TONS REPORTED IN REFTELS.
BYRNE

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